In several cases the people who had obtained agricultural loans from the Government were unable to repay them at the stipulated time owing to change of economic conditions since the grant of the loans. The prices of agricultural products had gone down and the people had no resources to fall back on. Similar was the case in regard to the payment of *taravila* and *tadivila* on the lands ordered to be registered. The time for payment of these loans and dues should therefore be extended.

The tax on rubber land has been reduced by the Government. But the Land Revenue Department was realising the tax at the original rate. This should not be. Again areas registered not as rubber lands but cultivated with rubber were paying a tax of Rs. 2 per acre. These lands were yielding nothing to the owner. The tax on these lands also should be reduced.

The keenness of economic depression was aggravated by unemployment among the educated classes. The Unemployment Committee has suggested that these men should be induced to take to agriculture. Such of them as desired to take to this profession must be given lands and facilities for cultivating them.

Several labourers have been thrown out of work since the advent of the depression. The only means of providing these men with work was by disafforesting lands fit for cultivation and assigning the same to them.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Michael, it is not possible for me to reply to all your suggestions now. The problem of finding employment for the unemployed educated classes must be faced. I may say that a large number of blocks of forest land have been disafforested, but many of these blocks are lying uncultivated in many parts of the State. The question of throwing open other forest lands for cultivation is dependent upon the question whether there are unobjectionable lands available and whether people are willing to take them up.

Government at present are doing their best to help the people by suspending coercive processes for recovery of land revenue. But, there is a limit beyond which Government cannot go.

Your other suggestions have been either considered or will be considered.

37. Some remedial measures for the present economic depression.

MR. V. K. KESAVA PILLAI (*Minachil taluk, Group I*) said tha the majority of the people in Travancore were agriculturists and that the chief agricultural products were paddy, cocoanut, pepper, turmeric, ginger, rubber and cardamom. But the paddy produced was inadequate to meet the demand and every year a large quantity of paddy was imported into the State. The prosperity of the people did no therefore depend upon foreign markets so far as paddy was concerne

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But the other products were exported to foreign markets and the prosperity of the people depended upon the demand for their products in foreign markets. The prices of these articles had gone down, there being no proper demand for the same. A commercial agent should therefore be appointed by the Government for the purpose of finding out proper markets for local products. The need for such an agent had been urged by other members also.

A large quantity of paddy and rice was being imported every year for local consumption. In 1106 alone the value of paddy and rice imported was Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores. It was necessary and desirable that all the quantity of paddy required for local consumption should be produced locally. In order to achieve this object, the Agricultural Department should find out means for increasing the yield of existing wet lands. The area of wet lands should also be increased by disafforesting all available wet lands from the reserved forests. There were extensive forest lands adjoining inhabited areas which were quite unprofitable to the Government from the forest point of view. These lands should be disafforested and assigned in small blocks under the Land Colonisation Scheme.

The practice of selling lands for arrears of land revenue and *puduval* dues should be suspended for some time. Owing to economic depression the assignees of *puduval* lands who had been given the concession of paying the *puduval* dues in instalments were not able to pay the instalments due. Coercive processes for the recovery of the unpaid instalments should therefore be suspended as otherwise the assignees would have to give up the lands and forfeit the amounts already paid.

Similarly, the sale of immovable properties in execution of decrees in civil courts should also be suspended. Many lands were being sold for very low prices in court sales.

Owing to scarcity of money and stringency in the money market people were unable to pay their debts and the creditors could not find money to meet court costs to sue the debtors. The period of limitation for original and appellate civil suits should therefore be temporarily extended.

During the last auction sale of liquor shops, many shops were bid for comparatively high rentals. But owing to poor returns, many shop contractors were forced to default payment and such shops were sold again. According to agreements, the original contractor was liable for the deficit in the bid amount in the second auction and proceedings were accordingly started to recover such deficit. This caused untold hardship and loss to the contractors. The contractors should therefore be granted remission to the extent of 50 per cent. of their dues.

The rate of interest on the loans issued from the Land Mortgage Bank was very high and the amount allotted for the grant of loans also was inadequate. The amounts invested by the Government on securities at low rates of interest should be realised and re-invested in the Bank.

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The people in the mofussil parts were the most affected by the prevailing economic depression. Facilities should be afforded for the issue of larger loans to such people.

Lastly, the pay of officers drawing Rs. 100 and above should be reduced by at least 25 per cent. The member hoped that the higher officers would allow a voluntary cut in their salaries and that the Dewan would set the example.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Most of your suggestions, Mr. Kesava Pillai, have been made by the previous speakers.

The question of granting remission to Excise contractors is being considered.

I doubt whether your suggestions, about suspending the sale of properties in execution of decrees and the granting of extension of the period of limitation for civil suits, will be workable.

Experience will show how we can make the new Land Mortgage Bank more useful. I have no doubt we will profit by experience and improve its working.

In your taluk, there is very little forest land available and most of what is available for paddy cultivation has been disafforested and thrown open for registry.

Your other suggestions will be considered.

38. Present condition of trade.

MR. R. BHAGAVATIPERUMAL CHETTIYAR (*Trading Classes, Kottar*) said that trade in the country had considerably declined and that the Government were not paying adequate attention for its development. The people too were not taking interest in trade and commercial activities. The educated people were averse to take to the profession. The above were some of the chief reasons for trade depression.

Travancore was purely an agricultural country and the majority of the people were agriculturists. But with the increase in population and the decrease in the yielding capacity of lands, the people found it difficult to get on with agriculture alone. The time had therefore come for the people to take to other profitable professions such as commerce and industry. But these were declining owing to economic depression. The banks and *hundi* merchants were not of much help to the traders. These were conducting *chitties* or doing the business of pawnbrokers. According to statistics there were 260 joint stock companies in the State doing banking and loan business. The average capital of each of these companies was about Rs. 20,000. It was difficult to imagine how with such small capital the companies could do banking business. With low capital and irregular customers several banks were not doing successful business and several of them were collapsing. The development of commerce and industry depended on the development of banking business for which capital was necessary. Formerly, there was flow of capital from British India but

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